

What is claimed is:

1. A system for determining whether a person is at a given location, comprising:

a transmitter periodically emitting a unique signal;

a base station containing a receiver;

said base station further containing a processor; and

a base station database containing at least one unique record, said unique record corresponding to said person and correlating said unique signal emitted by said transmitter to said unique record in said base station database;

wherein said unique signal emitted by said transmitter is of sufficient strength to be received by said receiver only when said transmitter is in close proximity to said receiver; and

wherein when said base station receives said unique signal from said transmitter, the base station processor makes an entry in the base station database record that corresponds to said transmitter, recording a receipt of said unique signal; and

further wherein when said base station fails to receive said unique signal from said transmitter for a predetermined period of time, the base station processor makes an entry in the base station database record that corresponds to said transmitter, recording a failure to receive said signal, thereby recording whether said person is at a given location.

2. A system for determining whether a person is at a given location, comprising:

a transmitter periodically emitting a unique signal;

a base station containing a receiver;

said base station further containing a processor;

a base station database containing at least one unique record, said unique record corresponding to said person and correlating said unique signal emitted by said transmitter to said unique record in said base station database;

a telephone connection from the base station to a local telephone network controller; and

a network database maintained by said local telephone network controller, said network database containing a plurality of network database records, each of said network database records corresponding to a telephone number in a local telephone network;

wherein said signal emitted by said transmitter is of sufficient strength to be received by said receiver only when said transmitter is in close proximity to said receiver; and

wherein when said base station receives said unique signal from said transmitter, the base station processor makes an entry in the base station database record corresponding to said transmitter, recording a receipt of said unique signal;

further wherein when said base station fails to receive said unique signal from said transmitter for a predetermined period of time, the base station processor makes

an entry in the base station database record corresponding to said transmitter, recording a failure to receive said signal; and

wherein, upon detecting a change in at least one of said records in said base station database, the base station initiates a telephone call to said local telephone network controller, uploads said base station database into the network database, and thereafter disconnects said telephone call, thereby updating said network database to record whether said person is at the given location.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the transmitter is in the form of a card that fits into a wallet.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein the transmitter is in the form of a fob that can be attached to a keychain.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein the receiver is contained in a base station combined with a telephone into a single unit.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein the receiver is contained in a base station comprising a self-contained unit separate from a telephone.

7. The system according to claim 2, wherein said network database is utilized to determine an identity of said person who is at the given location and further to provide specialized telephone services to said person.

8. The system according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of telephone numbers may be accessed via one telephone line.

9. The system according to claim 8, further comprising means for associating said person with at least one of said telephone numbers.

10. The system according to claim 8, further comprising means for detecting which of the plurality of telephone numbers is being called.

11. The system according to claim 7, further comprising the use of voice recognition means for identifying the person being called.

12. The system according to claim 7, further comprising the use of touch-tone means for identifying the person being called.

13. The system according to claim 7, wherein the local telephone network controller permits an incoming telephone call to be completed only if a person being called is at the given location.

14. The system according to claim 13, wherein, upon a determination that that the person being called is not at the given location, the local telephone network controller returns to a caller a signal indicating that a telephone is ringing without being answered.

15. The system according to claim 13, wherein, upon a determination that the person being called is not at the given location, the local telephone network controller automatically transfers a caller to a voice mailbox.

16. The system according to claim 13, wherein, upon a determination that the person being called is not at the given location, the local telephone network controller automatically transfers a caller to a predetermined alternative telephone number.

17. The system according to claim 13, wherein, upon a determination that the person being called is not at the given location, the local telephone network controller permits a caller to select another call recipient.

18. The system according to claim 7, wherein the local telephone network controller permits a call waiting signal to be given only if a person being called is at the given location.

19. The system according to claim 2, further comprising a database of at least one subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on outgoing telephone calls, and

further comprising, for each of said subscriber telephone numbers, a list of at least one restricted outbound telephone numbers ,

wherein an outbound telephone call from one of said subscriber telephone numbers to one of said restricted outbound telephone numbers can be completed only if a required person is at the given location.

20. The system according to claim 19, wherein the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers is maintained within the base station.

21. The system according to claim 20, wherein said list of restricted outbound telephone numbers is uploaded to the local telephone network controller whenever there is a change to said list of restricted outbound telephone numbers.

22. The system according to claim 19, wherein the database of subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on outgoing telephone calls and the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers associated with each of said subscriber telephone numbers is maintained within the local telephone network controller.

23. The system according to claim 22, wherein the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers is updated by telephoning a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

24. The system according to claim 22, wherein the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers is updated by electronic mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

25. The system according to claim 22, wherein the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers is updated by mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

26. The system according to claim 19, comprising:  
means for determining whether an outbound telephone call is from one of said subscriber telephone numbers that has restrictions on outbound telephone calls,

means for determining whether an outbound telephone call is to one of said restricted outbound telephone number, and

means for determining whether said at least one required person is at the given location,

wherein the telephone network controller permits completion of said outbound telephone call only if said at least one required person is at the given location.

27. The system according to claim 2, further comprising a database of at least one subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on inbound telephone calls; and

further comprising, for each of said subscriber telephone numbers, a list of at least one restricted inbound telephone numbers ;

wherein an inbound telephone call to one of said subscriber telephone numbers from one of said restricted inbound telephone numbers can be completed only if at least one required person is at the given location.

28. The system according to claim 27, wherein the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers is maintained within the base station.

29. The system according to claim 28, wherein said list of restricted inbound telephone numbers is uploaded to the local telephone network controller whenever there is a change to said list of restricted inbound telephone numbers.

30. The system according to claim 27, wherein the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers is maintained within the local telephone network controller.

31. The system according to claim 30, wherein the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers is updated by telephoning a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

32. The system according to claim 30, wherein the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers is updated by electronic mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

33. The system according to claim 30, wherein the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers is updated by mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

34. The system according to claim 27, comprising:

means for determining whether an inbound telephone call is to one of said subscriber telephone numbers that has restrictions on inbound telephone calls,

means for determining whether an inbound telephone call is from one of said restricted incoming telephone numbers, and

means for determining whether said at least one required person is at the given location,



wherein the local telephone network controller permits completion of said inbound telephone call only if said at least one required person is at the given location.

35. The system according to claim 28, wherein, upon a determination that said at least one required person is not at the given location, the local telephone network controller plays an announcement to a caller explaining that said inbound telephone call cannot be completed.

36. The system according to claim 28, wherein, upon a determination that said at least one required person is not at the given location, the local telephone network controller returns to a caller a signal indicating that a telephone is ringing without being answered.

37. The system according to claim 28, wherein, upon a determination that said at least one required person is not at the given location, the local telephone network controller automatically transfers a caller to a voice mailbox.

38. The system according to claim 28, wherein, upon a determination that said at least one required person is not at the given location, the local telephone network controller automatically transfers a caller to a predetermined alternative telephone number.

39. A system according to claim 2, further comprising a database of telephone numbers for emergency service providers, wherein the local telephone

network controller always permits a telephone call from at least one of said emergency service providers to be completed.

40. A system according to claim 2, further comprising a database of unrestricted inbound telephone numbers, and

further wherein the local telephone network controller always permits a telephone call from a telephone number on said database of unrestricted inbound telephone numbers to be completed.

41. A system according to claim 40, wherein said database of unrestricted inbound telephone numbers is maintained within the base station.

42. A system according to claim 41, wherein said list of unrestricted inbound telephone numbers is uploaded to the local telephone network controller whenever there is a change to said list of unrestricted inbound telephone numbers.

43. A system according to claim 40, wherein said database of unrestricted inbound telephone numbers is maintained within the local telephone network controller.

44. The system according to claim 43, wherein said database of unrestricted inbound telephone numbers is updated by telephoning a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

45. The system according to claim 43, wherein said database of unrestricted inbound telephone numbers is updated by electronic mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

46. The system according to claim 43, wherein said database of unrestricted inbound telephone numbers is updated by mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

47. A system for indicating that a transmitter's battery power is low, comprising a transmitter that emits a unique signal to a base station receiver within a home, wherein said transmitter emits a signal to indicate a reduced strength of a battery powering said transmitter.

48. The system according to claim 47, wherein said base station indicates said reduced battery strength via a flashing light on the base station.

49. The system according to claim 47, wherein upon receipt of said signal indicating that said transmitter's battery power is low, the base station receiver initiates a wire telephone call to a local telephone network controller and uploads information regarding said reduced battery strength to the local telephone network controller, and further wherein upon receipt of said information, the local telephone network controller initiates a telephone call to a household member associated with said transmitter to inform said household member of a need to replace said battery.